

Title of Proposal

2021 EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) Funding Announcement

Lead Organization	Proposal Primary POC	Proposal Secondary POC	Proposed Funding Level
OEJ	Jacob Burney	Sheila Lewis	\$5,500,000

Description

The 2021 EJCPS funding opportunity is currently open and set to close in May. This opportunity provides funding directly to community-based organizations (e.g. local nonprofits, Tribal govt., US Territories, and Native American orgs) to address the multitude of disparate impacts the COVID-19 pandemic has on underserved areas and vulnerable populations in their own communities. Currently, the funding announcement states that applicants can propose projects addressing issues related to any one of seven different environmental statutes beyond just the clean air and safe drinking water activities allowable with ARP funding. This proposal proposes to amend the funding announcement to highlight that ARP funding will be available specifically for projects addressing clean air and safe drinking water concerns related to the pandemic. Applicants will then have sufficient time to update their community projects to fall within those two statutes (if they so desire) before they submit their applications in late May. High quality applications that address non-ARP statutes can still be submitted but will be funded with OEJ's normal annual appropriations. In a typical year, with much less funding, OEJ receives upwards of 70 EJCPS applications. Many more are expected with the ARP funding. Proposed projects will include activities focused on indoor air pollution, Healthy Homes, local food access to reduce vehicle travel and emissions, air monitoring, vaccine access and education, and Safe Drinking Water. Grantees must have at least 3 local partners and a strong/direct connection to the target EJ communities and populations of their project.

2021 EJ Small Grants (EJSG) Funding Announcement

2020 State EJ Awards (SEJCA)

OEJ	Jacob Burney	Sheila Lewis	\$4,000,000
OEJ	Jacob Burney	Sheila Lewis	\$5,200,000

The 2021 EJ Small Grants funding opportunity is currently open and set to close in May. This opportunity provides funding directly to community-based organizations (e.g. local nonprofits, Tribal govt., US Territories, and Native American orgs) to address the multitude of disparate impacts the COVID-19 pandemic has on underserved areas and vulnerable populations in their own communities. Currently, the funding announcement states that applicants can propose projects addressing issues related to any one of seven different environmental statutes beyond just the clean air and safe drinking water activities allowable with ARP funding. This proposal proposes to amend the funding announcement to highlight that ARP funding will be available specifically for projects addressing clean air and safe drinking water concerns related to the pandemic. Applicants will then have sufficient time to update their community projects to fall within those two statutes (if they so desire) before they submit their applications in late May. High quality applications that address non-ARP statutes can still be submitted but will be funded with OEJ's normal annual appropriations. In a typical year, with much less funding, OEJ receives upwards of 200 small grant applications. Many more are expected with the ARP funding. Proposed projects will include activities focused on indoor air pollution, Healthy Homes, local food access to reduce vehicle travel and emissions, air monitoring, vaccine access and education, and Safe Drinking Water. Grantees must have local partners and a strong/direct connection to the target EJ communities and populations of their project.

The 2020 SEJCA grant opportunity was EPA's first grant opportunity focused on the impacts of COVID-19 on underserved communities and vulnerable populations. We received 51 applications and awarded 10 grants. But there remain up to 26 viable COVID-19 projects that we wanted to select but just didn't have enough funding. These remaining projects are eligible for ARP funding as the activities proposed are largely clean air related with a few addressing safe drinking water concerns also. These proposed projects are still current, focus on the impacts of the pandemic on EJ communities, and we can start the selection and awarding process immediately. Proposed projects currently include activities focused on indoor air pollution, Healthy Homes, air monitoring, and Safe Drinking Water. Projects can be expanded to include educating local communities on vaccine details, access, and safety. Grants will be awarded to state, local, tribal, and US territorial governments. Grantees must have local partners and a strong/direct connection to the target EJ communities and populations of their project.

Technical Assistance Support to Communities with EJ Concerns

Spurring Economic Opportunities and Environmental Revitalization in Our Nation's Most Overburdened Communities

OEJ	Sheila Lewis	Jon Grosshans	\$500,000
OBLR	Megan Quinn	Patricia Overmeyer	\$5,000,000

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) is committed to ensure communities affected by environmental and public health hazards have independent, non- advocacy, technical assistance needed to empower them to meaningfully participate in the process and actions needed to address their issues. The Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) program provides communities dealing with environmental and public health issues, under EPA's authority, independent technical assistance to help them understand the related technical issues and to participate in the actions and decisions-making processes more substantively.

Supporting Regions to better coordinate and focus efforts to provide assistance to communities. addressing clean air and safe drinking water concerns. The types of support to be provided would include convening, collaborative process and facilitation, and technical assistance for community efforts that can support community capacity building, project planning and design, analysis, and evaluation that are essential for community based project work. Facilitating the collaboration with state, tribal and local governments, community-based organizations, business and industry, and other stakeholders to solve environmental problems together. Assist with communicating and creating a more consistent expectation and generation of community-driven opportunities and solutions in collaboration with EPA and other partners (Federal, State, industry, foundations, etc.) Agency priorities such as protecting children's health, lead exposure and remediation, and supporting neighborhood revitalization and economic development are the subject matter of many these projects in communities. Technical assistance under this funding would help communities prepare for climate resiliency, and identify, track, and address climate-related vulnerabilities. Technical assistance will also help EPA implement outreach and mitigation efforts to climate-impacted communities. Assisting communities/organizations in enhancing their plans and partnership for addressing environmental concerns and a vision for future development.

Support includes assisting EPA staff with one or more of these activities in response to community requests.

- Planning and coordinating training for community organizations in asset mapping, strategic planning and succession planning
- Providing subject matter experts to provide training.
- Developing and providing materials, as needed, for training

The FY21 ARP investment will:

Remove barriers to brownfields reuse and spur new redevelopment to transform communities into sustainable and environmentally just places

Align with the President's Environmental Justice Executive Order by stimulating economic opportunity and environmental revitalization in hundreds of historically overburdened communities

Enhance climate resiliency and promote equitable and sustainable redevelopment through expanded technical assistance for "Climate Smart Brownfields Redevelopment"

Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSUs): Building capacity in EJ communities to address children's enviro

OCHP	Jeanne Briskin	Grace Robiou	\$2,500,000
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This proposal would support additional programming on children's health in EJ communities, particularly during the COVID pandemic, consistent with PEHSU mission "to improve reproductive and children's health by leading the integration of environmental health into clinical care and public health while supporting communities to address historical injustices and ongoing environmental racism and address the existential threat of climate change."

In March 2020, PEHSUs identified the possibility associated with the COVID pandemic of increased environmental exposures that often happen in home settings, such as exposure to lead paint and dust for children under 2 years of age. They developed resources on cleaning and disinfection where children live, learn and play. This proposal would allow the PEHSUs to translate and share those resources more widely, in tribal and rural and immigrant communities, and with more health professionals, such as community health workers/promotoras and school nurses.

Training and educational opportunities would be targeted to socially or economically vulnerable communities as identified by EPA regional offices, or through existing PEHSU relationships with community groups, NGOs and others who work in EJ communities. At the higher level of proposed funding the PEHSU in each federal region would be able to intentionally work with a variety of EJ communities – including rural, urban, tribal, immigrant and farmworker communities. Because the PEHSUs operate as a national network they can efficiently collaborate on technical questions and issues, yet each has ability to tailor their advice as needed for cultural sensitivity and language needs based on their regional location.

PEHSUs worked on children's health and COVID issues all through 2020 and developed guidance for health providers and the general public on cleaning and disinfection, products to use or avoid, school and home based advice, producing and sharing video messages for the public, webinars and grand rounds, and other issues. Therefore, they are starting with a good foundation to tailor messages for specific EJ community leaders in public health, nursing, medicine, and the general public.

Background:

PEHSU programming provides children's environmental health education for health providers in practice and for those still in training. PEHSU works with pediatrics, obstetrics, family practice and nursing in community health clinics and on issues that are not covered in medical and nursing education, including most environmental exposures and conditions and the interaction of environmental conditions with infectious diseases. PEHSUs also educate and provide outreach to public health workers and the lay public, school groups, community groups, parents and caregivers to increase overall

Equitable Resilience and Revitalization Assistance

OCHP	Jeanne Briskin	Grace Robiou	\$2,000,000
OP/OCR	Surabhi Shah	John Thomas	\$500,000

This cooperative agreement would support capacity building and provide technical assistance to address children's environmental health in school, childcare settings, or where children gather (such as community centers or places of worship) in vulnerable communities. The grant would provide funding directly to up to 10 organizations to support school- and/or childcare center-based capacity building projects that help school communities understand and address local environmental and public health issues that affect children, with a particular emphasis on schools and/or childcare centers in socially or economically vulnerable communities – for example, communities with environmental justice concerns, tribal schools, Title I schools, Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Projects may demonstrate, implement, or expand innovative methods and approaches to prevent and reduce exposures to environmental hazards in schools and childcare settings. Capacity building programs eligible for funding under this solicitation should be multi-media (involving multiple environmental health hazards) and holistic approach (involving multiple stakeholders and built on strong partnerships).

Examples of activities: Develop and deliver technical assistance, training or other support to school districts to assist them in implementing school environmental health programs; develop and implement training programs to promote awareness and action to address children's environmental health and health hazards in schools; develop and implement outreach and training to promote the adoption of a comprehensive program to improve indoor air quality and address the reduction and elimination of indoor air pollutants and asthma triggers through proactive policies and staff practices; present recommendations for best management practices for integrated pest management to address safety concerns of pesticide uses; inform school administrators and maintenance personnel on the hazards posed by polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs) such as fluorescent light ballasts and caulk present in older schools and buildings; providing training and technical assistance regarding chemical cleanouts and chemical management plans; provide education and outreach on how to use disinfectants safely and effectively to kill the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) when used according to label directions as well as share the use of EPA's Safer Choice labeled products with ingredients that are safer for schools and communities; develop and implement a local plan to increase community support and resources to protect children from environmental health risks in schools by coordinating with existing groups and community coalitions that address children's environmental health issues (such as exposures to asthma triggers, lead, PCBs, mercury, asbestos, pesticides, chemicals used in laboratories and cleaning products etc.) to leverage resources

Contract supported assistance to states and economically distressed communities within them to promote equitable resilience. Builds upon EPA's Regional Resilience Toolkit. The investment would support work with 4 states to use EJ screen to identify specific communities that will, in turn, be the focus of direct technical assistance that addresses equitable resilience and climate justice.

Aligning School Reopening Investments with Clean Air and Neighborhood Cooling Shelter Needs

Technical Assistance to Overburdened Communities Identified by State/Tribal/Local EJ Grant Recipients

OP/OCR	Surabhi Shah	John Thomas	\$250,000
OP/OCR	Surabhi Shah	John Thomas	\$400,000

Contract supported assistance to develop and implement local strategies for using Elementary and Secondary School Relief Fund dollars to also create clean air and neighborhood cooling refuges for vulnerable communities. Funding would support direct technical assistance that pulls together state school facilities agencies, state emergency response agencies, school districts and EJ communities to analyze gaps where populations that are more vulnerable to air quality and heat events lack access to community shelters. The result of the analysis and technical assistance workshops based on them will enable targeting of school air circulation upgrades for reopening to also support community shelters. Minimum funding level would support work in two states. Maximum funding would support work in six states.

OEJ's State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement Program seeks to support and/or create model state activities that lead to measurable environmental or public health results in communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms and risks. OCR would work with the recipients to identify communities and projects for which Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities technical assistance could further their efforts to positively impact overburdened communities. We would also work to create a network of these communities to create peer-to-peer learning opportunities among themselves and with other previous/current Building Blocks communities. Minimum funding would support direct assistance to 6 communities identified by state grant recipients, plus support the development of the peer to peer exchange network. Maximum funding level would support assistance to 12 communities identified by state grant recipients and support the peer to peer network.

OP/OCR and OEJ	Surabhi Shah	Sheila Lewis	\$1,000,000
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This proposal focuses on air and water issues in underserved/EJ communities. This coordinated effort by OCR, OEJ, Regions 2, 3, 4 5 and 9 will accelerate environmental justice by: (1) development of EJ academies to serve a number of EJ communities across multiple Regions; and (2) engagement and payment of community-based organizations that provide their time and expertise in addressing environmental issues in these communities.

EJ Academies build community capacity to identify environmental vulnerabilities and solutions that better protect a community. Establishing EJ academies will reduce FTE demands on Regions to convene and lead community-focused projects. The EJ academy investment will improve communities' ability to advocate for change, and lead community-driven planning: this approach frees up EPA to focus on targeted program delivery. This approach will be implemented with an emphasis on building lasting peer networks, drawing on proven models in EPA's Urban Waters and Brownfields programs.

In engaging communities in the academies, communities will make GWUSA and EPA aware of pressing needs for technical assistance. EPA will use \$500K to provide technical assistance to these communities, with a commitment to providing 50% of that funding to CBOs. Paying community-based organizations for their expertise is an established best practice in community work. EPA, and OEJ in particular, has had a long-standing goal of mainstreaming this practice within the agency. This proposal represents a strategic investment in that goal.

\$500K of this funding will be placed in an existing cooperative agreement between National Park Service (NPS) and Groundwork USA, a non-governmental organization with a track record of highly effective engagement in and with EJ communities. EPA will move funds to NPS via an interagency agreement that will be established within 60 days of final approval of this funding. \$500K of this funding will be placed in an existing blanket purchase agreement (BPA) to broaden the use of existing EPA contracts to pay community-based organizations for their expertise and substantive role in addressing environmental issues. The commitment is to ensure that 50% of the project contract budget is used to fund CBOs. These funds will be placed in appropriate contract vehicles within 60 days of final approval of this funding.

Appalachia Initiative for Revitalization

Region 3	Samantha Beers	Sheila Lewis	\$500,000
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The President's Executive Order on "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad" specifically targets revitalization of "coal communities." Coal communities are communities that host former/current workers and their families of coal mines, coal power plants and the pollution legacy footprint of those operations. Pollution legacy includes but not limited to water, soil, sediments, stormwater, surface water, and air deposition pathways. Pollution legacy may have had adverse effects on the environment and public health including childrens health in these communities that need to be identified and addressed.

This is a proposal to develop a strategic vision/strategic plan to work across geographic boundaries, silos and agencies in deploying and leveraging ARP EJ investments in programs along with other resources to 1) address identified community needs in the chart below (as informed by further community and stakeholder engagement); 2) identify and prioritize communities with the greatest needs; and 3) develop a collaborative public outreach and internal communications strategy(with OP, OCIR, Regions 3,4, and 5).

Development of a strategic plan across programs and regions is critical to assure resources are deployed to the programs with the knowledge, skills and expertise to address needs of communities identified in the chart below. In addition, appropriate resources will need to be deployed in order to work with community leaders and community groups to effectively implement public outreach. The plan should emphasize these efforts as a cross regional EJ priority, distribution of funds to appropriate programs. The value in having a cross regional approach is the ability to leverage relationships with local governments as well as nongovernment entities focused of revitalization of the Appalachian region.

Kick-off of our outreach efforts should occur as soon as feasible. The initial kick-off event should have EPA Administrator Reagan along with the Acting Regional Administrators announcing our strategy to help coal communities with revitalization efforts.

Local governments, and other partners could be recipients of ARP funding to implement programs and assistance to address the needs in the attached chart. The combined funding and programmatic resources would be used to address the issues in the chart below in order to drive economic revitalization. Emphasis should be on access to drinking water that meets national standards, waste water treatment infrastructure, job training, candidate site cleanup, redevelopment, broadband needed for education, access to health care and services, to help spur future development

Regions 2&6, OECA	Sheila Lewis	Jacob Burney	\$300,000
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NHEC's "Science in Service of the Community" is a two-part interconnected program. It puts to work the intensive enviro STEM training of top diverse college STEM students from under-served/EJ communities on behalf of those EJ communities.

PART 1: Using ARP funding, EPA supports/funds at least two of NHEC's well-established "Environmental STEM Institutes". The first Institute would be the NYC/NJ Institute in early July, then the New Mexico Institute in early August 2021. Along with other federal agencies, EPA has been a funder/supporter of these Institutes for the last 10 years.

NHEC's award winning Environmental STEM Institutes are a 10 day residential, intensive, high level, heavily science-focused, field-based/hands-on environmental STEM program that educates/trains/recruits top diverse science students deeply committed to and passionate about pursuing an environmental/natural resources major, and later, a related enviro science or research career, including at EPA. Institutes are held in the summer. NHEC students are a skilled cadre of top science students, many of them students of color, and are the next generation of America's (and EPA's) scientists, researchers, and professionals.

The above majors include: environmental science, biology, toxicology, chemistry, civil/environmental engineering, ecology, wildlife biology, fish biology, botany, hydrology, geology, earth sciences, and more – all Mission Critical Occupations (MCO's) much needed/much sought by EPA and other federal public land agencies.

The core Institute elements are:

- daily "Environmental Field Studies" using professional-grade enviro science equipment;
- use of federal public lands like national parks, forests, and federal research stations and laboratories (including the EPA lab in Edison, NJ);
- training by NHEC's cadre of environmental science Ph.D Instructors, most of whom are people of color;
- "role models" – volunteers who participate for one or several days. These are environmental professionals, many from sponsoring agencies like EPA, most of whom are in science fields, and whom are people of color. Role models give

Getting the Lead Out by Advancing Lead Line Replacements in EJ Communities

Region 1	Jane Downing	Kristi Rea	\$350,000
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There are a number of urban EJ communities across the country that still struggle with elevated lead in drinking water due to hundreds of thousands of public and private lead water lines still in service. While public water utilities are making some progress identifying public lead service lines, in most cases, there is limited information on the numbers and locations of private lead water pipes. Working with the Office of Water, EPA R1 is finalizing a national on-line tool "Protect Your Tap". This generic tool instructs homeowners on the process to identify private lead lines, and provides recommendations of actions to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water and protect families. Financial assistance is needed to develop show case communities and lessons learned in the critical public health matter of finding and getting the lead out of water pipes in EJ communities. To build capacity and interest, local partners, including advocacy groups, will be utilized to educate and motivate the public to find their lead service lines and work with partners, through incentives, to replace lead lines and protect their families.

Funds could be provided to selected associations, agencies, water utilities, governmental entities, and/or state/local advocacy groups to advance the use of the Protect Your Tap, or other means, to identify, track, and map the locations of public and private lead lines in EJ communities. Knowledge of lead lines will be followed up with local public education on lead risks, development of funding partnerships and incentives, and technical assistance for private lead pipe replacements. As an example, in Region 1 alone, with seed money, EPA could advance public awareness and advocacy in Boston, MA and Providence, RI. The funds could be offered as a national competition (maximum funding) and/or pilot projects for prioritized EJ communities in one or two regions (minimum funding).

Region 2	Ameesha Mehta-Sampath	Eliana Deleon, Zeno Bain	\$300,000
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Due to hurricane and earthquake disaster recovery efforts in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands there is a great need of local workers in skilled environmental trades (for example, mold, lead, and asbestos abatement and remediation). This proposal aims to provide contractor or direct assistance support to train local unemployed workers in skilled environmental trades in order to increase local workforce capacity, guarantee sustainable career paths, and certify that workers are following EPA and local regulations/guidelines, thus protecting workers and the occupants.

The poverty rate of Puerto Rico is 44.9% compared to Mississippi, the mainland's poorest state, which is at 24.2%. Hence, the whole island of Puerto Rico is considered to have communities with Environmental Justice concerns.

The USVI is home to roughly 105,000 people, also facing a significant level of poverty. It was last reported in the 2010 U.S. Census that 22% of the USVI population lived below the poverty line. However, it is likely that the figure has risen since the 2017 hurricanes and the COVID pandemic, both of which led to severely reduced tourism, one of the Territory's main sources of revenue.

In addition to the training program, a pilot project is also suggested to provide funding to conduct asbestos, lead-based paint, and mold assessments at schools and community centers that are being used or may be used as shelters. This effort could be conducted by an EPA contractor and data could be used for future compliance and abatement purposes. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many public schools were closed and have deteriorated structures that may have mold and may be releasing friable asbestos and/or lead-based paint dust.

Puerto Rico Community Drinking Water Systems Capacity Assessment and Circuit Rider Program

Drinking Water Systems Lacking Sufficient Funds to Meet Safe Drinking Water Standards

SDWA 1442(a) Science, Research, Demonstrations or Other 1442

SDWA 1442(a) Science, Research, Demonstrations or Other 1442

Region 2 Water	Ameesha Mehta-Sampath	Christina Maldonado	\$350,000
Region 3 Water	Samantha Beers	Karrie Crumlish	\$350,000
Region 4	Brian Smith	Eunice Dais	\$250,000
Region 5	Felicia Gaines	Dan Cozza	\$250,000

There is a constant concern about the quality of the drinking water served by community water systems serving about 100,000 people in overburdened, disadvantaged and vulnerable communities in Puerto Rico. The poverty rate of Puerto Rico is 44.9% compared to Mississippi, the mainland's poorest state, which is at 24.2%. Hence, the whole island of Puerto Rico is considered to have communities with Environmental Justice concerns. The community water systems are commonly known as Non-Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (Non-PRASA) as they are not owned by the main water utility in the Island. The Non-PRASA systems are located in primarily small, disadvantaged, environmental justice communities in rural areas, and they are owned and operated by community leaders. Non-PRASA communities have a historical high percentage of health-based violations (have the highest impact in EPA Region 2, Long Standing Health-Based Violators Performance Measures), representing a chronic risk to the public health of over 100,000 families.

Puerto Rico's economic constraints and the recent impacts of several natural disasters (hurricanes, earthquakes, drought), as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, have placed an additional burden on Non-PRASA systems, negatively affecting compliance rates. In addition, the Puerto Rico Department of Health (PRDOH) DWSRF funding cut-offs have limited the ability to award contracts to implement new projects for capacity development efforts. Most of the Non-PRASA communities lack technical, managerial, and financial capacity and a self-sustained governance structure to operate and maintain a safe and reliable drinking water service resulting in ongoing low compliance rates. EPA Region 2 is proposing to build and empower the community leaders' capacities to better utilize federal and state assistance available for Non-PRASA communities and integrate EJ in resource decision making.

Provide funding assistance to communities with drinking water systems that have not been treated to acceptable drinking water standards. There are chronic violations of drinking water standards in unincorporated and/or rural communities because they lack the financial ability to invest in drinking water infrastructure. These communities are not able to secure loans through the state revolving fund or lack the ability to take advantage of WINN ACT 2104 for small and disadvantage community grants due to the state 45% matching requirement. The result is Americans who are currently drinking water that has not been treated to acceptable drinking water standards. EPA will use data from the ETT list of small communities, overlay with ETT high scores, state identified disadvantaged communities and EJSCREEN to identify communities to receive funding assistance.

SDWA 1442(a) Science, Research, Demonstrations or Other 1442

SDWA 1442(a) Science, Research, Demonstrations or Other 1442

SDWA 1442(a) Science, Research, Demonstrations or Other 1442

High School Outreach for Drinking Water Industry for Potential Jobs

Tribal Drinking Water Compliance & Technical Operator Assistance

Provide Financial and Managerial Training to Support Water Utilities Located along the US/Mexico Border

Region 6	Jim Brown	Claudia Hosch	\$250,000
Region 9	Emmanuelle Rapicavoli	Ken Wysocki	\$250,000
Region 10	Karen Burgess	Mathew Martinson	\$250,000
Region 7 Water	Mary Mindrup	Robert Dunlevy	\$175,000
Region 7 Water	Mary Mindrup	Robert Dunlevy	\$90,000
R6 Water	Claudia Hosch	Denise Hamilton	\$75,000

Provide workforce training within Urban High Schools in communities self-identified or through environmental justice mapping of Water System Operations and the associate job market. Goal is to encourage high school youth to consider the important role of water system management and the educational skills necessary. \$100,000 would 4 high schools or one urban area and \$400,000 would allow for Region 7 coverage to ensure full high school coverage for areas to meet the definition of environmental justice.

Through an Interagency Agreement with Oklahoma City Indian Health Service, contract with a technical assistance provider to train, build capacity and provide compliance assistance for Tribal Drinking Water operators with the Iowa Tribe, Sac and Fox of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska, and Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas.

Financial and managerial training for EJ communities will include but not limited to; water audits, utility rate studies, financing of capital improvement planning, resource evaluation planning, and conservation program analysis. Many of the EJ Community's water utility experience drinking water outages and intermittent service due to insufficient capacity in their water treatment and/or distribution system, capital improvement planning, operation/maintenance management, and user fee collections.

Expansion of Region 8 Tribal Circuit Rider Contract

Region 8 Water	Nate Delano	Ben Bents	\$360,000
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Technical Assistance. This proposal would expand support for the existing Region 8 Tribal Circuit Rider (TCR) Contract. The TCR contract currently provides technical assistance to several tribal water systems within Region 8. However, the need for technical assistance exceeds the regional budget allowance.

- Tribal water utilities often request additional assistance that cannot currently be provided. These utilities often serve EJ communities where technical, financial, and managerial capacity is low. The TCR contract provides critical assistance to utilities with daily operations.
- Nearly all Region 8 Tribal communities are EJ communities.
- The TCR contract assists utility staff with proactive utility operation, helping to maintain equipment to avoid emergency outages. The most vulnerable communities in R8 Indian Country are more likely to have water service outages when inadequate technical assistance is provided. Region 8 Tribal water systems experience numerous water outages each year due to improperly maintained infrastructure and lack of redundancy.
- The TCR contract assists utility staff in addressing compliance issues and correcting significant deficiencies. Additional resources would allow for more time to be spent with vulnerable utilities.

Water Operator & Utility Management Training. Due to the cancellation of many training venues during the COVID pandemic, many tribal utilities have requested formal operator training and opportunities for staff to achieve their required continuing education credits. The Region 8 TCR contract has attempted to provide small informal training as a part of technical assistance. However, regional budget constraints have not allowed for more formal, extensive training.

- Expanded support of the TCR contract would allow more intensive, multi-day training to be provided in multiple locations throughout the region.
- Higher funding level would allow for the scope of training to be broadened to include managerial training. Training for utility managers and Tribal councils regarding utility budgeting, setting utility rates and improving rate collection would allow for more consistent utility operation and longer-term planning.

Best Practices to Consider Susceptibility in Human Health Risk assessment

OCHP	Jeanne Briskin	Grace Robiou	\$150,000
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EPA risk assessors need to better account for health disparities arising from environmental exposures. To protect the health of the entire U.S. population, systematic consideration of susceptibility is critical to improve consistency and transparency in EPA chemical risk assessment. The NRC (2009) has recommended to EPA that "...attention should be directed to vulnerable individuals and subpopulations that may be particularly susceptible or more highly exposed." Current EPA human health risk assessments usually include some degree of qualitative consideration of susceptibility, but there is a lack of systematic consideration and knowledge. There are also legal requirements directing EPA to consider susceptible populations and lifestyles in risk assessment (e.g., FQPA, TSCA, SDWA, CERCLA, CAA). However, the laws broadly require consideration of susceptibility without specific data or process requirements. Extrinsic and intrinsic susceptibility factors have historically been addressed separately. However, there are a myriad of factors, some of which are not well-defined, and interactions among factors that can lead to an increase in exposure and/or an increase in the response. Some of the factors include nonchemical stressor exposure, biological differences, and lifestyle differences. These complexities underscore the challenges to protecting persons in environmental justice communities from health impacts from environmental chemical exposure and the need for EPA to develop approaches and knowledge to consider all types of factors in order to protect susceptible populations and lifestyles from health impacts of chemical exposure.

This project will bring EPA experts, working separately on various aspects of susceptibility, together to form a coalition in order to address the common goal of improving the systematic consideration of susceptibility in human health risk assessment. The goal of the project is to improve the integration of susceptibility information into EPA human health risk assessments, both qualitatively and quantitatively, to protect the health of susceptible populations and lifestyles in the US. Since susceptibility can result from multiple, interacting factors, the project will include all factors that affect either an individual or population's exposure to a chemical and/or response to a chemical exposure. Non-chemical factors that can influence the magnitude of exposure to the chemical include dietary or nutritional differences, behaviors (e.g., alcohol consumption, smoking), and social determinants of health (i.e., life circumstances). Factors that can affect one's magnitude of response to a chemical, also called biological factors, include health status (e.g., cardiovascular disease, obesity, COVID-19), factors that increase stress (e.g., socioeconomic status), genetics, lifestyle (i.e., critical windows of exposure), toxicokinetic differences, and body size. The workgroup will be co-lead by OCHP and

Identify and Implement Improved Consideration of Children's Health Outcome Disparities in Policy Making

OCHP	Jeanne Briskin	Grace Robiou	\$200,000
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This project will provide EPA with approaches for evaluating the benefits arising from options for policies, regulations and other agency actions which are intended to reduce exposure during early life from conception (i.e., reproductive age) through adolescence in regulatory analysis, particularly for children in disproportionately affected (EJ) communities. This project will identify best practices for performing benefits analysis for children's health, with special focus on health disparities and opportunities to reduce such disparities in EPA actions. It will promote the use of these benefits analyses in regulations, policies, programs, and other applications to support strengthened protections for children in communities experiencing health disparities.

Background: Children living in disadvantaged (minority, low income, and indigenous) communities can be disproportionately vulnerable to environmental contaminants for many reasons, including access to health care and cumulative exposures to multiple contaminants. The combination of physical, chemical, biological, social and economic factors with these exposures can result in greater rates of preterm birth, low birthweight and childhood asthma, which are significant additional, lifetime harms. The last major review of the burden to society from childhood exposures, which did not include a specific focus on children in environmental justice communities, was \$76.6 billion (Trasande and Liu, 2011). This is a significant cost which should be explicitly and consistently considered during regulatory decision making to ensure the benefits of harm prevented be included in the economic evaluation. Economic benefits analysis of policies for reducing exposures in these children should reflect the value to these populations for improved children's health outcomes, which can appear after childhood and/or persist for a lifetime. For many reasons, EPA practice to date has been to use valuation estimates from the economics literature representing the average individual across broad populations or the population as a whole. In part, this is based on information in EPA's Children's Health Valuation Handbook (2003). However, the Handbook reflected the economics literature at the time it was written and does not include updated information and methods. Neither does it consider how disparities in exposure and susceptibility can and should be factored into benefits valuation for children's health.

To start, a in depth investigation will be conducted to identify methods developed for children's health valuation since the 2003 Handbook, with a particular emphasis on the implications of disparities in vulnerability and the implications for valuing improvements in children's health. Information on costs and unit costs will be gathered through a literature

Integrating EJ into EPA permit-writing

OP/OFA	Prasad Chumble	Nancy Abrams	\$50,000
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Build upon and expand upon EPA permit writers' proficiencies by developing and providing training that integrates the analysis and consideration of EJ factors into the permit process. Conditions in a community is important context for decision-making on permitting facilities. Screening areas with available tools (such as EJSCREEN, NEPAassist, CDC data) will help identify areas for enhanced community engagement. Incorporating information from community engagement, and sharing regulatory process information with stakeholders, will build a foundation and communication network. Engaging industry to create opportunities for changes to move toward improvement in environmental conditions, as well as communication. It is anticipated that actionable information will be incorporated in permit development, permit conditions and monitoring; with outcomes of more comprehensive permits and engagement, and improved environmental conditions.

With the minimal funding, expanding permit writers' proficiencies can be achieved by developing trainings focused on EJ 101 for permit writers to ensure common understanding of EJ and legal authorities available to permit programs to integrate EJ into permitting and Proficiency and knowledge of tools to conduct better EJ screening. Maximum funding will allow for expanded training to include tools and examples of how to conduct enhanced outreach to EJ communities, including early engagement, cross-program engagement, multi-agency, stakeholder, NGO, academia, engagement, and sharing current best practices in EJ and permitting, through a Community of Practice exchange platform (e.g. Teams) and discussion.

Improving Assessment of Environmental Justice for Regulatory Analysis

OP/NCEE	Al McGartland	Ann Wolverton	\$120,000
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The challenges confronting EPA economists and regulatory analysts are daunting. Evaluating environmental justice concerns requires integrating an important literature with a wide array of data and tools, while also accounting for a variety of nuanced and often context-specific considerations. Analysts need to merge data from disparate sources, including combining industry, baseline, and health effects information from other sections of the regulatory impact analysis (RIA) with sociodemographic characteristics for communities impacted by the rule. In doing so, each program office faces unique challenges. For example, the methods used to combine and evaluate these data depend on the details of the benefit assessment conducted for the RIA, and the degree to which anticipated environmental and/or health effects for particular population groups can be disaggregated or modeled. This proposal attempts to strike a balance between lowering barriers for incorporating EJ into regulatory analysis and not making the process so automated or standardized that analysts do not substantially engage on the issues or investigate novel approaches to continuously improve on and conduct more refined analyses.

We propose three areas where funding could make an immediate and very real impact: training, workshops, and data set and tool development. Together, these activities will quickly address the immediate need to build capacity and analytic skills to conduct high quality EJ analyses for upcoming rulemakings. In addition, these activities will position EPA well to enact a longer-term workstream to fill additional data needs and tool development highlighted during training discussions and workshops. Ultimately, these activities will ensure that EJ is more robustly considered and incorporated into regulatory analysis, which will provide members of the public with better information not only on baseline exposure, consumption, and health effects in EJ communities affected by a regulation but also the ways in which a proposed rule may affect those baseline conditions going forward.

1. Training – develop and offer a series of EJ analysis training sessions

These training sessions would be targeted at Agency analysts and economists who conduct economic analyses for rulemakings. Many analysts are relatively unfamiliar with the existing EJ guidance and tools for evaluating potential EJ concerns. Development of training materials could begin immediately, and the sessions could be offered over the next 6 months. The first training session could provide an overview of analytic objectives and expectations and current

EJ Analysis Tool (EJSCREEN multi-site report tool) and related resources

Advancing Regulatory Analytics and Policy Modeling to Better Incorporate Environmental Justice Considerations

OP/ORPM	Mark Corrales		\$600,000
OAR	Jeb Stenhouse	Daniel J. Hopkins	\$500,000

This funding would allow EPA to offer a powerful new EJ analysis tool, as well as new closely related reports that would document demographic and environmental conditions in the communities surrounding over 1 million EPA-regulated facilities nationwide. A minimum level of funding would enable just one of these items described below, while fuller funding would provide this suite of tools and resources:

1. Multisite EJ analysis tool (website that gives you an EJSCREEN summary of your list of sites)
2. EJSCREEN Reports by Sector - Screening communities near 1.5 mill. EPA-regulated sites
3. Literature Review(s) on EJ by Sector and Pollutant (resource for rule-writers and policy work)

Multisite EJ analysis tool -

A website giving you an EJSCREEN summary of your list of sites.

This new tool will be closely connected to EJSCREEN, but provide a new, very powerful and useful capability – Revealing the larger picture by looking at hundreds or thousands of places - related to an entire industrial sector, for example – rather than just exploring one community or one regulated facility at a time. This has been something OECA, OP, and others have wanted for some time, but the public is likely to find it highly informative once academics and community groups see how it can inform conversations about progress on environmental justice. By making targeted upgrades and additions to EJSCREEN, and pulling in EJSCREEN data, a new tool can be created that will be widely usable by EPA and the public. This new EJ analysis tool would provide baseline data for policy debates as well as specific regulatory applications and beyond. The web-accessible tool will let any user specify a list of points (such as regulated facilities affected by a rule being developed, or spanning an entire sector), and instantly obtain a summary report with tables and graphics characterizing the communities living near all of those facilities. This will dramatically speed up and standardize an analysis that currently must be done manually and slowly by an ArcGIS expert or government contractor. Developing this tool would also provide the opportunity to finally fill in key gaps in the buffer analysis outputs - to add health data, climate indicators, and currently missing demographic subgroups (e.g., % Hispanic).

EJSCREEN Reports by Sector -

Screening communities near 1.5 mill. EPA-regulated sites

As soon as the tool is available internally, EPA can run the tool for up to 1.5 million regulated facilities – the entire EPA

This proposal would speed up enhancements to OAR's regulatory analysis infrastructure, enabling EPA better to identify how air pollution impacts historically marginalized, overburdened, and disadvantaged communities. These improvements to OAR's analytical capacities would benefit rulemakings scheduled to be finalized within the next six to nine months, which offer potential to deliver long-lasting results to communities with environmental justice concerns quickly. A small investment in this analytical infrastructure would also benefit all future climate and power sector related rulemakings.

Advancing Data Analytics to Identify Cumulative Burdens and Improve Equity Outcomes for Vulnerable Communities

Oil and Gas Environmental Justice Impact Analyses and Outreach

OAR			\$200,000
	Allen Fawcett	Daniel J. Hopkins	
OAR	Mike Koerber	Juan Santiago	\$500,000

Executive Order 13990 calls on EPA to revise its Oil and Natural Gas New Source Performance Standards to reduce methane emissions through revisions to regulations for new sources, and new standards and emission guidelines to reduce emissions from existing oil and gas sources, which EPA has not previously regulated. As EPA develops these regulations, we are committed to broad public outreach, with a particular emphasis on communities of color and low-income communities that are disproportionately harmed by oil and gas emissions of methane and other toxic pollutants that are harmful to health. OAQPS would use this funding to:

- Conduct analyses to determine which communities are most likely to experience the negative effects of oil and gas emissions. These analyses would help focus outreach efforts on communities that are disproportionately impacted.
- Complete development of the Source and Receptor Analysis Tool, which will allow us to assess communities' cumulative risks from breathing air toxics from all major stationary sources, including oil and gas sources. This tool also will allow us to determine – at the neighborhood level -- how much of the air toxics risk is coming from oil and gas sources, which will inform future outreach.
- Use the results of those analyses to generate infographics and other easy-to-understand materials to explain these risks to the public, with materials tailored for individual communities as needed and provided to EPA regions and other offices. These materials also would be translated into Spanish.
- Develop additional materials to that communicate – in simple terms -- how EPA's regulations work and how the public can participate in the rulemaking process, and to translate these materials into Spanish.
- Provide logistical support and assistance for multiple offices to conduct meetings to seek pre-proposal feedback from broad audiences, with a focus on EJ and tribal communities. This includes support for meetings using virtual platforms, to ensure we are protecting public health from the risks of COVID-19.

This proposal would enhance EPA's ability to identify the multiple, cumulative burdens facing overburdened communities and to improve environmental, public health, and equity outcomes by accelerating the development of an open-source tool to address fundamental data gaps. By leveraging multiple Federal datasets and advanced data science techniques, the project would enrich the characterization of underserved and disadvantaged communities across spatial, demographic, and socioeconomic dimensions. This tool could enable the integration of demographic and socioeconomic data with diverse information on the risks of, for example, air pollution impacts, flood risk, energy infrastructure, clean water, energy poverty, and transportation inequality. This would be a new project emerging from the field of climate economic modeling. OAR's experts believe that with additional funding and coordination with experts from Office of Environment Justice, this could empower the entire Agency to deliver significant benefits to overburdened communities for years to come.

OECA	Seth Heminway	Martha Segall	\$2,000,000
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The OECA Circuit Rider program supports EPA's National Compliance Initiatives (NCIs) for reducing significant noncompliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) wastewater permits and reducing noncompliance at Community Water Systems. In early 2020, OECA Circuit Riders began providing hands-on technical support to small public water systems (PWSs) and small wastewater treatment facilities (WWTFs) with noncompliance issues. To date, OECA Circuit Riders have provided support to approximately 100 small PWSs and 50 WWTFs in under-resourced communities nationwide (across all Regions – covering 10 states, Puerto Rico and four tribes). There are hundreds more small systems and facilities across environmental justice areas through the nation that need technical support to help them stay in compliance and provide clean and safe water to the communities they serve.

All the systems currently supported by the OECA Circuit Rider program are small communities (less than 10,000 population) and approximately 94% are in areas with environmental justice concerns. Even with limited travel in 2020, OECA Circuit Riders helped a tribal PWS correct more than 30 significant deficiencies and developed more than 15 recommendations reports for individual systems and standard operating procedure documents to facilitate sustained operational compliance.

OECA's Circuit Rider program is unique in several ways. First, it is designed to address noncompliance at both PWSs and WWTFs located within each community. Another unique feature is the emphasis on mentoring qualified regional, state, and tribal field personnel to increase the universe of by on-the-ground technical assistance providers available to support small systems and facilities.

This proposal will allow OECA to expand the OECA Circuit Rider program's reach to additional systems with compliance problems, targeting more areas of environmental justice concern, including those in Indian country, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Pacific Territories. OECA will continue to work closely with the Office of Water, and our state, tribal, territorial, and Regional regulatory partners to target assistance to focus on that areas with the greatest need.

Establish Tribal Capacity to Administer Public Participation in Environmental Management to Assure Fair Treatment and

Reducing emissions from diesel fleets in underserved communities through the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) p

OITA/AIEO	Lisa Berrios	Mike Weckesser	\$1,600,000
OAR	Christine Koester	Faye Swift	\$7,000,000

This investment supports efforts to establish public participation programs for Indian country communities with documented fair treatment and meaningful participation priorities.

Consistent with principles defined under the EPA Policy for the Administration of Environmental Programs on Indian Reservations and the EPA Policy on Environmental Justice for Working with Federally Recognized Tribes and Indigenous Peoples, EPA works with tribes to make decisions and carry out program responsibilities affecting Indian country and the health and welfare of the populace, consistent with Agency standards and regulations.

EPA relies on our tribal government partners for help identifying local environmental values as a cornerstone of EPA administered environmental protection programs for Indian country. Tribal governments also require capacity to engage tribal members and other people impacted by the tribe's environmental management program. This investment will cover costs associated with integrating environmental justice principles into their environmental protection program operations, including procedures to assure fair treatment and meaningful involvement of tribal members and others living in areas affected by the tribal program. EPA assists federally recognized tribes in building capacity to establish public participation, community involvement, education, and communication systems to engage with tribal members and others living in areas affected by the tribal program and to conduct their own environmental justice analysis.

Create new program under the School Bus rebate program that limits rebate participants to school transportation systems in underserved communities (identified in consultation with OEJ) and potentially increase EPA funding amounts to help reduce financial barriers to participation. Add funds to upcoming Tribal/Insular Area solicitation. Add funds to 2021 National grant RFA for projects that score well on the community benefit criteria. Issue new funding competition specifically for ports/goods movement projects in environmental justice communities

Air Toxics, Hazardous Metals and Drinking Water Source Monitoring Near Environmental Justice Communities

OECA	Loren Denton	Debbie McCray	\$4,750,000
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Deploy air toxics, hazardous metals and drinking water source monitoring in specific EJ communities identified with potentially elevated inhalation risks as identified by OECA's National Targeting Compliance Center, OAR's National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA), OW's Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS) or other tips/complaints received by OECA/Regions/States. This project would provide EJ communities and EPA with valuable information to understand community risks associated with exposure to concentrations of specific chemicals in air and water and would provide EPA with necessary information to pursue enforcement actions to address violations. Environmental justice can only be attained when sources of the pollutants in these areas are in full compliance with environmental laws and residents of impacted communities have equal access to information about the levels of these pollutants in their community.

Examples of monitors to be deployed include

- Deploy portable metals monitoring analyzer (Xact X-ray fluorescence (XRF)) that can be deployed in the field to assess whether residents are exposed to excess emissions of hazardous metals and measures two dozen different metals. Region 5 has successfully deployed the instrument to monitor excess manganese from stockpiles and lead emissions from lead recycling operations. The data generated by the Xact XRF helped in R5 enforcement actions to reduce emissions from these facilities. Purchase and deployment of Xact XRF monitors in the remaining nine Regions would support significant reductions from sources of metal emissions, which are frequently located in or near EJ communities.
- Install air toxics monitoring network in specific EJ communities (e.g., the Denka facility in La Place, LA) identified with potentially elevated inhalation risks from air toxics as identified by NATA and in EJ communities impacted by emissions from multiple facilities. This project would provide EPA with valuable information to support enforcement and to help EJ communities better understand community risks associated with exposure to concentrations of specific chemicals.
- Develop and implement bacterial and lead in drinking water sampling programs to support reductions of drinking water contaminants in EJ community water systems. In addition, implement a network of remote low-cost water quality sensors for transmitting real-time source water information to the Monitor My Watershed data portal. This effort will result in a substantial collection of data that can be used to identify water quality impacts to drinking water sources, keep communities informed, and help guide enforcement decisions. In particular, EPA would use instream compliance monitoring equipment to document potential violations and/or support use of imminent and substantial endangerment authorities.

Crime Victim Outreach

OECA	Justin Oesterreich	Mike Burnett	\$300,000
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Environmental crime significantly impacts the communities in which they occur, which ranges from catastrophic events such as explosions to chronic health ailments. A recent Department of Justice and EPA workgroup on Environmental Justice, identified the inability to readily identify victims in impacted communities as an ongoing barrier to the delivery of federal victim services. This challenge is magnified in vulnerable communities. Through the use of social media, this proposal will make it easier for victims of environmental crime to learn about and receive services they are entitled by federal law.

Nextdoor.com is a free community-based social media platform used by over 25% of the households in the United States, with much higher member percentages in multi-cultural neighborhoods. This web-based application is location based and used to share a variety of information within small communities. Unlike Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, Nextdoor.com does not require members to follow or friend other members to receive information. All members are identified at a fixed address and receive messages, updates and alerts from members and organizations within their neighborhood. Nextdoor.com has recently developed fee-based community outreach options for government agencies to share information to specific locations. The Census Bureau and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have successfully used Nextdoor.com to share information to pertinent communities.

The requested funds would pay for EPA to use Nextdoor.com to assist in the identification of environmental crime victims as required by federal law under the Victim Rights Act (VRA) and Crime Victims' Rights Act (CVRA). This engagement would be a high-visibility demonstration of the Agency's commitment to the communities and victims impacted by these circumstances.

Oil and Gas Production and Refining Analyses Projects

Administration Costs

OECA	Cindy Beeler	Scott Patefield	\$80,000
OEJ/OMS	Sheila Lewis	Jacob Burney	\$1,000,000
	\$50,000,000		

Pumpjack Engine Testing in the Uinta Basin (\$25-\$50K)

A large portion of Utah's Uinta Basin is located on the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, which is not only an area classified as non-attainment for ozone pollution, but is an area with EJ concerns. There are ~2,700 oil and gas production pumpjack engines operating in the Uinta Basin. Existing data that suggests these units are emitting excess volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions over the allowed rates of between 4,000 – 60,000 tons per year. VOC emissions contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone formation.

Region 8 would like to conduct EPA reference method testing on pumpjack engines operating at oil and gas production facilities in Uinta Basin to determine compliance with clean air act (CAA) regulations.

Test results will be compared to regulatory standards and enforcement actions will be pursued where exceedances are measured. By conducting performance testing and pursuing enforcement where appropriate, operators will have more incentive to ensure these units are operating in accordance with applicable regulations, thus reducing VOC emissions. In addition, obtaining more accurate emission inventories from this source type would allow regulations to be tailored to address pumpjack engine emissions and assist in the return of the area into compliance with the ozone national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS).

The project would benefit not just Region 8, but all Regions with pumpjack engines.

To date, Region 8 has been able to test only 50 engines due to funding limitations. The Region is pursuing an additional \$25-\$50K to test an additional 100-150 engines. With 2,700 engines in the basin, a test campaign of greater than 50 engines would provide additional information and leverage to reduce emissions.

Members of the Ute Indian Tribe have expressed support for this test campaign, and capacity building would occur with EPA test observers providing training to Ute Air Quality Division members on how to observe EPA reference method testing.

Suncor Refinery Excess Emission Analysis (\$15-\$30K)

The Suncor Refinery operates in Commerce City, Colorado, an area that is classified as non-attainment for ozone pollution. Commerce City, the Elyria-Swansea and Globeville neighborhoods of Denver are directly adjacent to the Suncor facility and are considered EJ areas.

Region 8 and the state of Colorado would like to review and compare the frequency of reported upsets, malfunctions

Support for OEJ and Regions (contractor and FTE/details) to process EJ grants